

CHILDREN'S DANCE THEATRE

Repertory Ensemble



"Building healthy bodies and dedicated minds"



The Children's Dance Theatre Program Profile

Our History

The Children's Dance Theatre Program was founded in September 1993. It began with a mere three students who attended one class session per week, and studied movements from the Caribbean Dance genre. As the program gained momentum over the years membership has grown and the program now offers classes three days per week, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. In addition the Program offered a community service through its performing class of senior students.

The Program

CDT's program offers training in technique and performance skills. Classes are focused on classical, modern, creative movement, Caribbean folk and African dance forms. Training is provided at four different levels, beginners, intermediates (junior), and advanced (senior) levels. Promotion is based on age and /or technical achievement.

All classes last for a duration of 1½ hours except for the seniors class which is 2 hours. The program runs parallel to the academic school year (Fall, Winter and Spring Semesters). A special recital "Studio to Stage" is presented at the Yorkwoods Library Theatre in July of every year. This extravaganza is presented to the general public and showcases the repertoire of dances developed over the year(s). All members of the program are given an opportunity to share their learning and growing talents with family, friends and the community as a whole.



Personal Benefits of CDT's Program

In addition to nurturing a love for African derived music, dances and movement as a whole, our program also work towards creating opportunities for social and cultural interaction. Members who have reached the level of performing competency can not only look forward to becoming a member of the Repertory Ensemble. They can also look forward to showcasing the results of their efforts at events such as Metro Toronto Caravan, Carassagua, Community Festivals and our own Ensemble's major productions. Many members have stayed with the program from the beginner level to the Repertory Ensemble. They have developed strong friendships and attachments, and display a sense of commitment, dedication, an awareness of space and a love of movement.

THE REPERTORY ENSEMBLE

The Repertory Ensemble is an Afro-Caribbean based performing core. It was established in August 1999 to afford professional growth and exposure in the arts for its participants. The current group of Repertory Ensemble members comprises mainly of students from the Children's Dance Theatre's graduating Senior Performing class

Prior to its formation, the Senior Performing Class represented the CDT at numerous events, festivals and major production in Toronto and Western Ontario. Their performance repertoire included traditional Caribbean folk dances, modern and interpretive dances and also African dances. They developed a performance history of over four years, earning for themselves certificates of Merit and Excellence in Dance, and also winning Challenge Trophies in various categories in the Junior Caribbean Folklore Dance Festival.

The formation of the Repertory Ensemble is a new project towards introducing a profession focus in the arts for youths in the community. We also hope to develop an exclusive core group with artistic and technical competence. As a future endeavor Children's Dance Theatre will also be creating new expectations and higher aspirations for the younger student members of CDT, and youths in the community as a whole. For active participants, the Repertory Ensemble provides experience in yet another professional choice for the future.

Our Rationale:

Youths of our community need so much from us. They need positive leadership, mentoring and role models who, by example, can inspire the necessary attitudes as they assume

their rightful places in a productive adult world. Many of our members are approaching this turning point in their lives and in keeping with our African saying "It takes a whole community to raise a child," Children's Dance Theatre is making its contribution.

Aims and Objectives:

- To support initiative for artistic growth and personal development
- To promote interactive dialogue with educators and professional dance artist in Ontario.
- To provide exposure to the wide range of dance activity available in Ontario.
- To continue to uplift cultural and performance standards within the community

Incentives:

Members of the Repertory Ensemble will function at a semi-professional level, i.e. they will receive training twice weekly, with additional on call hours during performance seasons. They will perform the repertoire of dances developed for the Children's Dance Theatre, and in addition also perform other new works, which will be developed from time to time. Members will also enjoy.

- Performances with established professional groups.
- Opportunities for travel outside of the province of Ontario.
- Opportunity for professional exposure and interaction.
- Recognition for their professionalism, talent and growing artistic ability.

Funding:

The Repertory Ensemble, like The Children's Dance Theatre program is a non-profit organization. It is funded through membership dues, fund-raising events, and honorariums from external organizations.

Additional funds will be realized from the Children's Dance Theatre Program's membership and fund raising drives. Funds raised by the Repertory Ensemble will finance the following:

- Purchase equipment (music, tapes stationary, audio and video recorders).
- Remunerate visiting instructors and choreographers.
- Production support (finance venues of fund-raising and production event).
- Financing travels to local and overseas performances and workshops.

THE ARTISTIC TEAM

The Artistic Director:

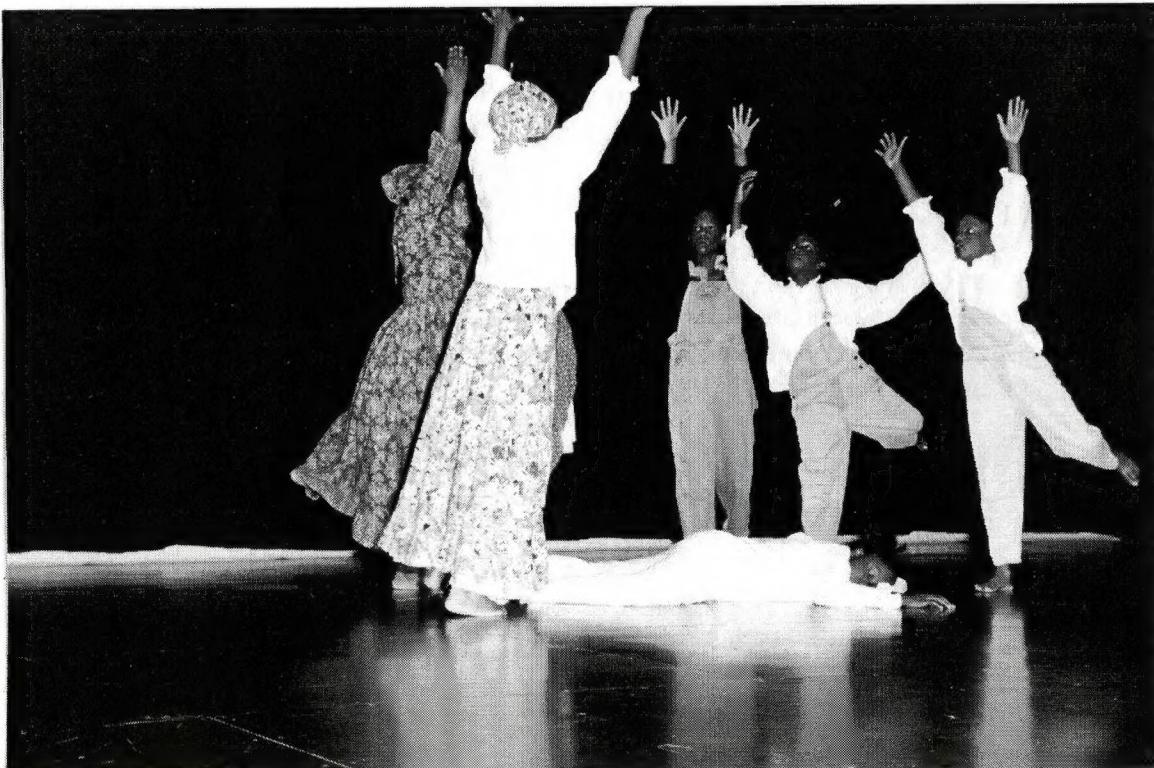
Andrea Douglas is the founder and Artistic Director of the Children's Dance Theatre. She holds a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Toronto and York University respectively.

Andrea has worked as a professional performer, dance instructor and choreographer in Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados, St Lucia, Cuba, Jamaica, USA and Canada, where she worked with seasonal professionals such as Lavinia Williams, Rex Nettleford, Astor Johnson, Eduardo Riviera.

In Canada she has instructed numerous classes for established community dance groups and companies such as Afro-Caribbean Dance Group, Scarborough Caribbean Youth Ensemble, Ballet Creole and. Andrea has also directed professional companies such as Dance Caribe Performing Company and the Caribbean Dance Theatre Company.

Andrea teaches all of the members of the Children's Dance Theatre from time to time, but concentrates mainly on introducing dance to the very young beginners, and choreographing dances for the Repertory Ensemble,

When away from the Children's Dance Theatre, Andrea is a full-time elementary school teacher with the Toronto District Board of Education, where her work in the arts plays a prominent role. She not only, chairs the Fine Arts Committee at the Flemington Public school, but she also teaches an Arts Integrated Curriculum, leads the school's Performing Arts Club, and presents workshops to teaching colleagues in her home school and other school staff in the TDSB school system.



Senior Instructor & Choreographer

Karietha Cooke joined the Children's Dance Theatre's team of instructors four years ago. She started dance with Dance Caribe, and currently studies dance at the Debbie Wilson Studio in Toronto. Kareitha received additional training and exposure to the art at the Jamaica School of Dance and is currently an active member of the Caribbean Dance Theatre, where she gains extensive performing experience.

"Sandy" as members fondly call her, works directly with the Repertory Ensemble as a resident instructor and choreographer. Her choreography, dances such as "*Shabak Adonnai*" "*In the Land of my Dreams*" and "*New Beginning*," have not only won acclaim from viewers, they have also won top awards in the Annual Caribbean Junior Folklore Dance Festival. Those dances are established in the Repertory Ensemble's repertoire of 1997 1998 and 1999.

When not dancing or teaching, Kareitha attends York University where she devotes time to her academic development. She is currently pursuing full-time studies in the field of nursing.

Junior Instructor & Choreographer

Colleen Phillips joined the Children's Dance Theatre's team of instructors three years ago. She started dancing with SCYDE, Scarborough Caribbean Youth Dance Ensemble and currently trains at the Debbie Wilson studios in Toronto. Colleen received additional training in Barbados, and Trinidad, and is currently an active member of the Caribbean Dance Theatre Company where she gains extensive performing experience.

With the Childrens's Dance Theatre, Colleen teaches classes at the intermediate level, and choreographs mainly for members of the senior Intermediate class which provides eligible dancers for the Repertory Ensemble.

Colleen choreographs mainly in the Caribbean dance genre. Dances such as "*Traditional Fusion*' and "*Ja-aazz*" can be seen in Children's Dance Theatre's 1998 & 1999. "Ja-aazz was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in the Caribbean Junior Folklore Dance Festival.

When not dancing, Colleen attends the York University, where she is pursuing studies in Mass Communications.

YEAR'S ITINERARY 2000

Performances & Projects

April

- *Open View (Networking Presentation)*
 - *Rehearsal for Studio to Stage 2000*
 - *Casino Rama (Fundraising Project)*

May

- *Carassauga 2000*
- *Rehearsal for Studio to Stage 2000*
- *Annual Raffle (Fundraising Project)*

June

- *Metro Toronto Caravan*
- *Rehearsals for Studio to Stage*
- *Casino Rama (Fundraising Project)*

July

- *Guyana Hopetown Association 10th Anniversary*
- *Annual CDT Studio to Stage 2000 Presentation*
- *International Folklore Festival, Munich, Germany*
(on tour with (Jamaica Heritage Singers)
- *Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts*
(Summer Dance School) Jamaica

August

- *Caribana Celebrations*
- *New Membership Auditions*
- *Rehearsals Repertory Ensemble Major Production*

September

- *Annual Caribbean Junior Folklore Dance Festival*
 - *Tour/Performance in Windsor, Ontario*

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CHILDREN'S DANCE THEATRE

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